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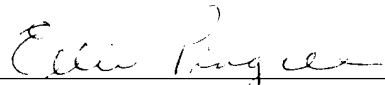


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IN RE APPLICATION OF:  Treado, et al.		
Serial No.  09/976,391	Filing Date:  October 12, 2001	
Title:  NEAR INFRARED CHEMICAL IMAGING MICROSCOPE		
Group Art Unit  2877	Examiner  Lauchman, Layla G.	

Express Mail mailing label number: EV 256986908 US  
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BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC  
One Oxford Centre, 20th Floor  
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*Ellie Pingers*

**PATENT**

**Attorney Docket No. 011311**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant:** Treado, et al. :  
: **Group Art Unit:** 2877  
**Serial No.:** 09/976,391 :  
: **Examiner:** Lauchman, Layla G.  
**Filing Date:** October 12, 2001 :  
**Title:** NEAR INFRARED CHEMICAL IMAGING MICROSCOPE

**Amendment and Response to First Office Action**

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed July 21, 2003, in connection with the above-captioned Application, having a period for response set to expire October 21, 2003.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of Claims 1-11, 15, 16, and 18-20 of the Application. The Examiner's objections and rejections of the other claims have been carefully

considered. In view of the following remarks and amendments, entry of the amendments and early allowance of all pending claims is courteously requested.

It is believed that no extension is required and no payment is due with this response. If an extension is required or other fee due, kindly deduct the necessary amount from Deposit Account No. 02-4553.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on Page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on Page 6 of this paper.